



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Kazu Kauinana
Onboard NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE
May 8 – May 23, 2006

Mission: Fisheries Survey
Day 4: Friday, May 12, 2006

Weather Data from Bridge

Latitude: 25, 21.8N
Longitude: 170, 51.1 W
Visibility: 10 nm
Wind direction: 100
Wind speed: 17 kts
Sea wave height: 2-3
Swell wave height: 4-6
Seawater temperature: 24.8C
Sea level pressure: 1018.3
Cloud cover: 6/8 cumulus, altocumulus, cirrus, cirrocumulus

Science and Technology Log

My shift on the cetacean watch began at 9:00 this morning. I started with the Fujinan 25x150, four-mile range, light-gathering, "Big Eye" binoculars. It was o.k. using the Big eyes looking straight ahead but looking through them at port or starboard was difficult because of the up and down rolling of the boat. I would switch to smaller hand-held binoculars instead of the deck-mounted Big Eyes. The water surface conditions were choppy so we did not see any whales, dolphins, or seals. However, I did spot a yellow spherical shape floating by. We had been instructed that if we did see a mammal to draw exactly what we saw and not to copy the illustrations from the identification book.

I worked the mammal watch detail until 11:00 a.m. and then I went back to work on the clay portrait I am doing of Chad Yoshinaga, the lead scientist. He is too busy to sit for me but I did manage to take some Polaroids and work from that. I have to admit, I am proud that he is a local boy who not only made it as a scientist, but he is the *lead* scientist. There aren't very many kids from Hawaii who are in this field; in fact, we are greatly outnumbered by scientists from the continent. Part of the reason is geography. Kids who study at the U. of Hawaii are getting exposure only to our limited wildlife, whereas the continent has a greater variety. Beeg mahni fo go sku ova dea. This will be my ho'okupu (gift) to Chad, the ship, the program, and the crew, who by the way, seem to be entertained by watching me work.

Personal Log

The ship's fishermen caught four Ono today. Each was about four feet long. This was the first catch on the entire trip so far probably due to our passing over a seamount only

600' deep. Tomorrow will be better fishing because we will be approaching Laysan Island. I am scheduled to go ashore with the scientists.

Malama Pono, Kazu